

Minutes of the Judiciary and Law Enforcement Committee – June 13, 2008

Chair Bonnie Morris called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

Committee Members Present: County Board Supervisors Bonnie Morris (Chair), Kathleen Cummings, Dave Falstad, James Behrend, John Pledl, Jean Tortomasi and Peter Wolff.

Also Present: Legislative Policy Advisor Dave Krahn, Legislative Associate Karen Phillips, District Attorney Brad Schimel, Clerk of Circuit Court Carolyn Evenson, Senior Financial Analyst Lyndsay Johnson and Victim Witness Coordinator Jen Dunn.

Tortomasi arrived at 8:32 a.m.

Review and Discuss 2007 Year-End Budget – District Attorney

Schimel reviewed the highlights of the 2007 Year End Budget for the District Attorney's Office. Some of the expense appropriations that were under budget in 2007 were cut for 2008, most notably the postage expenses. He explained that Victim Witness changed their procedures for sending notices to crime victims. It had been their practice to send notices to every crime victim of every hearing. Now, they only send it to those people who request it. Dunn explained many of the victims simply want to know the final outcome of the case. Schimel stated the District Attorney's Office also sends fewer mass mailings. He said the DARE calendar program was discontinued because of declining interest.

Schimel explained the District Attorney's Office was about \$5,000 under budget spending for staff training, travel, and mileage reimbursements. They have lowered their hotel and meal reimbursements to the State level (which is lower than the County reimbursement level) for their attorneys.

Schimel stated the District Attorney's Office was \$8300 below budget spending for contracted services for the drug prosecutor position and \$4900 in below budget spending for Marquette law interns. The detective services charges from the Sheriff's Department were also under budget because the overtime pay for Detective Witkowski was not as much as in past years.

Dunn addressed the 2007 Year End Budget for the Victim Witness Program. Dunn stated she must estimate what the reimbursement level will be from the State for the Victim Witness Program. In 2007, they accrued an estimated 52% reimbursement rate; it actually came in at 55%, so that money will be in this year's budget. Dunn stated she is conservative and cautious in spending. The Victim Witness operating costs are only 1% of the overall budget. The department will continue to monitor and manage within the State revenue reimbursement amount. Dunn added that the VOCA Grant programs are 100% reimbursed. This includes funding of the Homicide Specialist and Crisis Response Programs, which are used to assist crime victims. Dunn added that 5300 new victims and witnesses were provided Victim Witness services in 2007, and the numbers continue to increase.

Schimel addressed the decrease and/or loss in funding of the Byrne Grant. Morris summarized a letter written by Schimel to County Executive Vrakas which reflected his desire to continue the metro drug enforcement group and the funding for it, despite the loss of the Byrne Grant. Morris voiced her support for funding to continue this program in the 2009 budget. Krahn added that according to Joe Krahn, WCA's lobbyist in Washington, it is unlikely that the Byrne Grant will be restored.

Morris reviewed the District Attorney - 2008 Budget Objectives with Schimel and Dunn.

In closing, Schimel and Dunn stated they are willing to come anytime for discussion and review of any items of interest to the Committee.

Review and Discuss 2007 Year-End Budget – Circuit Court Services

Evenson reviewed 2007 Year-End Budget for Circuit Court Services. The overall results are due to year-end expenditures below budget (by \$1,650) after a year-end contingency fund transfer of \$64,000 and 2007 revenues greater than the modified budget (by \$62,600). She stated that as reflected in the Annual Report of Actual Costs, the majority of line items in the courts budget are mandated services; the department has no discretion in funding them. When the budget is prepared, an estimate is made of what costs will be by referring to past years averages/trends. In 2007, the court appointed attorney expenses increased significantly. A large portion of the Courts budget is related to cross-charges from the Sheriff's Department for security and court transports (over \$1 million). Positions were left open so that some personnel costs could be transferred to address the overages in bailiff service costs and transportation costs. There was greater than budgeted spending on Guardian Ad Litem (GAL) costs, court appointed attorneys in criminal matters and higher medical service costs due to an increased number of competency determinations and involuntary commitment proceedings. Evenson stated that revenues were slightly above the modified budget, mainly because there were some increases in charges for service revenue and fines and license revenue.

Evenson continued by reviewing the 2007 Court Cost Report for Waukesha County. She explained this report is submitted to the Director of State Courts as required by Wisconsin state statute. The report creates a uniform chart of accounts to insure that all Counties are reporting the same information. The detailed report covers information in the following categories:

1. Salaries and Fringe Benefits for Judicial Assistants (or equivalent positions that performed judicial assistant duties for judges, which is the case in Waukesha County.)
2. Juror Fees
3. Witness and Expert Witness Costs
4. GAL Compensation
5. Recoupment of GAL Fees
6. Detail of Court Costs
7. Identify Costs in Other County Budgets that Are Court Service Costs
8. Summary of Court Costs
9. Calendar Year 2007 Staffing Levels
10. Court Security

Evenson stated that uniform revenues are not reflected in this report, for example, the Court Support Grant that is issued annually to every Clerk of Court from the State (just over \$1 million.) Interest earnings are also not reflected in this report.

Morris reviewed the Circuit Court Services - 2008 Budget Objectives with Evenson.

Approve Minutes of May 16, 2008

MOTION: Tortomasi moved, second by Pledl, to approve the minutes of May 16, 2008. Motion carried 7-0.

Correspondence

- Letter from Ozaukee County Board to County Executive Vrakas regarding the termination of the Emergency Management Coordinator agreement
- A grant application for a Mass Casualty Exercise
- Letter from Schimel to County Executive Vrakas regarding Byrne Grant funding

Chair's Executive Committee Report

- Approved ordinance regarding library service funding
- Report on Completed Information Technology Projects
- Discussion of Historical and Long Term Plans for Building, Renovating and Maintaining the Courthouse (Rich Bolte, Mark Keckeisen & Dennis Cerreta)

Future Agenda Items

- Wolff would like to discuss concealed carry permits with the Sheriff regarding his ability to issue them and what it would take to manage the permits.
- Morris stated the review of additional 2007 Year-End Budget Reports

Future Meeting Dates

- No meeting on June 27, 2008
- The next scheduled Committee meeting will be July 11, 2008.(Tortomasi will not be present)

Legislative Update

Krahn presented brief updates on the following issues:

- The proposed OWI legislation: Krahn suggested to have legislators (Kleefisch) come in to discuss the issue with the Judiciary & Law Enforcement and Executive Committees. Behrend requested to review a summary of the anticipated costs to the County before the joint Executive and Judiciary Committee meeting. Morris stated that perhaps Evenson, Schimel and Johnson could prepare a report of those costs for review.
- The 9-1-1 Legislation: Krahn stated Richard Tuma is a part the Committee working on this issue, and some movement on this legislation is expected soon.
- Legislative Council Committees: Ten interim study committees were formed by the council, including a Juvenile Justice Committee. The committees are comprised of not just legislators; but also district attorneys, the public, juvenile division managers, etc. Schimel has been appointed to the Juvenile Justice Committee. Supervisor Fritz Ruf has been appointed to the Regional Transportation Authority Study Committee.
- The Byrne Grant
- The Second Chance Act

Public Comment

The committee members resumed with their introductions of themselves to the Committee members. Morris suggested supervisors attend meetings in their municipalities to introduce themselves.

MOTION: Wolff moved, second by Cummings to adjourn at 10:59 a.m. Motion carried 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen M. Cummings
Secretary